

Fun 'n FITchburg Mass in Motion Meeting minutes

October 28, 2010

3:00-5:15 PM

City Hall Veterans Room 718 Main Street

The meeting came to order approximately 3:00PM,

Introductions and brief statements from members on what their positions or affiliation with the Fun 'n FITchburg membership and what they loved about Fitchburg were expressed. Phil Bors from Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities (HKHC) Active Living By Design (ALBD) was present.

Jack Reynolds presented a brief overview of the mission and vision and the two strategies we are working on this year around fresh produce and parks.

A presentation - Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities by Phil Bors was shown to the members. Highlights included: a geography lesson depicting the location of ALBD, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the 50 HKHC grantees; communities similar to Fitchburg and the potential for learning from these communities through the funding lifecycle; and a general overview of the grant's goals to reduce obesity by 2015 in relation to policy, system, and environmental changes in communities.

The park assessments were reviewed by Kayla McNamara.

The assessment of Monument Park was presented by Shamaila Khan.

This park is currently designated a passive park.

Needs: Accessibility—crosswalks near Senior Center not near the entrance of the building and the handicap ramp is in the back of the park. The sidewalk around the Senior Center is dangerous, especially near the handicap entrance, not enough lighting in the park, the corner seating is isolated and unsafe, broken railings, graffiti and vandalism and vagrants hanging out at park are constant problems.

Assets: Accessibility to downtown, Senior Center and school, and atmosphere for relaxation.

Suggestions: Gain approval for croquet, bocce ball, concerts in the park.

Replace benches with picnic tables and add a gazebo

Remove bushes in the corner of the parks and replace with smaller plants and flowers or groundcover.

Move handicap ramp from back of park to the side across from Senior Center

Add a crosswalk and possibly divert traffic around the park

Potential for a safe-routes-to-school bus stop.

Next Steps: Members of the Parks Board present at the meeting suggested the group go to the veterans to seek support to integrate the above listed activities/ammmentities.

The assessment of Green Acres was presented by Bob Hill and John Riccuitti
Currently this open empty field has been dubbed 'the field of dreams' given its potential to house activities for youth and families in that area.

Needs: Isolated basketball court which needs resurfacing and new nets

Not adequate lighting

Isolated field

Limited parking

No existing activities or equipment.

Assets: Playground equipment available to move to this neighborhood.

In neighborhood where this a large proportion of youth and families in close proximity.

Suggestions: Construct community gardens

Add playground equipment by moving existing equipment from the school

Resurface basketball court and get new nets.

Discussion on our next steps took place, providing many new ideas for the field of dreams - add flowers and benches, thin trees to increase visibility, and add soccer nets
Plans to continue with the parks assessments were made.

Next Steps: Collaboration between Parks and Housing Authority – move playground equipment and discussion with you in the neighborhood to see what activities they would like in the field.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm